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# CIA manual flouts law, panel says

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WASHINGTON — The House intelligence committee concluded yesterday that a CIA manual for U.S.-backed Nicaraguan insurgents violated a 1982 law prohibiting attempts to overthrow the Sandinista government and revealed a lack of "adequate command and control of the entire Nicaraguan covert action."

In a one-page report, the committee said preparation of the manual, which referred to "neutralizing" Nicaraguan officials, was marked by negligence, incompetence and confusion. But it said there was no intentional violation of either the 1982 law or a presidential prohibition against promoting assassinations.

Committee chairman Edward P. Boland (D., Mass.) said the panel would not seek further action against the CIA or its director, William J. Casey, but insisted that Casey bore indirect responsibility for the manual.

Last month, President Reagan concluded an internal investigation by ordering formal reprimands of six mid-level CIA employees for their role in overseeing the manual.

"One can say that Casey ultimately probably would be responsible for it," said Boland, "on the basis of the

fact that the program was poorly managed and run very unprofessionally."

However, at least one committee member, Rep. Norman Y. Mineta (D., Cal.), called for Casey's resignation and blamed the panel's refusal to be "tougher on the agency" on its desire to preserve "good relations" with the CIA.

Another member, Rep. Wyche Fowler Jr. (D., Ga.), stopped just short of demanding Casey's dismissal, declaring that the CIA director had admitted the agency was "negligent" in failing to properly supervise preparation of the manual.

The report concluded two days of closed-door hearings on the 90-page manual, titled "Psychological Operations in Guerrilla Warfare." The document's existence was revealed in the news media in mid-October, causing a pre-election furor.

The manual advocated the "selective use of violence" to "neutralize" some Nicaraguan officials, and one segment also contained the word "derrocamiento," which is Spanish for overthrow. Administration critics argued that *neutralize* was a euphemism for assassination.

The document was written by someone using the pseudonym "Taccayan," who later was identified as an American named John Kirkpatrick, a CIA contract employee. However, it is not clear if that is his real name.

The report said that the manual "was written, edited, distributed and used without adequate supervision. No one but its author paid much attention to the manual ..."

"The entire publication and distribution of the manual was marked within the agency by confusion

about who had authority and responsibility for the manual," the committee said. It added that the manual illustrated "once again to a majority of the committee that the CIA did not have adequate command and control of the entire Nicaraguan covert action."

The committee said it also learned that high-ranking CIA officers, such as Casey, never reviewed the manual — a fact that Boland termed "incredible" — and that not all CIA officers were aware of the existence or significance of the 1982 law prohibiting efforts to overthrow the Sandinistas or even Reagan's own prohibition against assassination.

"The committee believes that the manual has caused embarrassment to the United States and should never have been released in any of its various forms," the panel report said. But, it concluded, "Negligence, not

intent to violate the law, marked the manual's history."

Boland said that Casey disagreed with the committee finding that the CIA had violated the prohibition against attempts to overthrow the Sandinistas, which is contained in an amendment Boland himself sponsored.

"He read into the Boland Amendment that the agency had to have the intent to overthrow the Sandinista government and that that is not the intent of the United States," Boland declared.

However, he said, the existence of the manual reinforced the committee's belief that the Reagan administration was seeking to topple the Sandinistas, and he repeated his call for Congress to cut off all U.S. aid to the insurgent contras when the issue came before Congress again next month.

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**Casey arrives at the Capitol for a closed hearing on the manual**